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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON THE OAS AND BOLIVIA, JUNE 13, 2005

1. On 6/11, the Tegucigalpa-based moderate paper "El Heraldo" published an editorial entitled "Bolivia: Limits to Patience." "The fact that Bolivia will have its 3rd president in 3 years, without breaking constitutional order, demonstrates the crisis created by a political and economic model that has not recognized the interests of the majority."

"The leader of the Supreme Court of Justice, Eduardo Rodriguez, became president on Tuesday after street protesters forced the presidents of the bicameral congress to resign their aspirations because both were viewed as options that continued the old order that catered to the traditional power centers supported by the U.S. Embassy in La Paz. In other words, Bolivians are dictating the course of the country from the streets and neighborhoods."

"The change of president doesn't signify an end to the conflict, but it is the beginning of a transitional period necessary for creating the conditions within the democratic system for Bolivians to elect a president and for congress to address the interests of the majority."

"These examples of popular rebellion should convince the governing class of these poor countries that they should think about and act more for the benefit of the more vulnerable and disenfranchised members of their respective societies. In fact, the most stoic populations can grow tired of unkept promises, politicking, and demagoguery."

2. The San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" carried an editorial entitled "Bolivian Crisis." "In the neverending chain of 'constitutional coups d'etat' in Bolivia, the national congress accepted the resignation of Carlos Mesa and was replaced by Eduardo Rodriguez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice."

"In the constitutional order of succession it was congressman Hernando Vaca Diez' turn followed by Mario Cossio's but they resigned their turns because they were rejected by the natives, whose primary leader is Evo Morales."

"The political system is incapable of resolving these problems and creating a lasting social-political pact, the constant demands are: a) agricultural reform; b) gas nationalization; c) state protection of cocaine crops as a food diet and ancient commerce."

"In such circumstances the new president steps into scene to prepare the anticipated general elections. Even though some prefer a constitutional assembly election which will finally restructure the State and will also obligate an elaboration and approval of another Constitution."

"As you can see, this outlook is very different to the accustomed process of social-political change in Latin America and Central America. It would be interesting to watch the OAS actions contribute to an intelligent and realistic solution to the Bolivian crisis."

3. On 06/13, the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published an editorial entitled, "Vaca Diez." "Evo Morales, coca leader and his majesty in the riot, are the owners of Bolivia's situation. A few weeks of long lasting resistance, angry multitudes with flags of gas nationalization, was enough for Sanchez de Lozada to fall and run away to the U.S."

"The demonstrations have shaken off the second president because he was an ally to the transnationals, American embassy, invaders and oligarchy. Despite that he was famous for being an intellectual and he is not an ally."

"The OAS is doing very well, reunited in its annual assembly while all this was happening, deliberated on its new role towards ungovernability problems in Latin America. The OAS limited itself to express its concerns on Bolivia's chaotic situation. The new Secretary General tried better for luck in Nicaragua in mediating between the opposition and the government."

"Here in Honduras we are far from Bolivia's situation but analyse say that we are on a `risky edge' and one of these days it is only matter of having someone with the capability to maintain a long lasting demonstration. It's possible that Carlos H. Reyes or the western origin Zuniga that will fire up passion and give the country a big scare by only igniting the fire and raising up a national issue flag."

Tuebner